

Fairfax County, Virginia, Independent Company to George Washington, October 19, 1774, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE FAIRFAX INDEPENDENT COMPANY. ¹

ALEXANDRIA, Octr: 19th: 1774

SIR/

In compliance with an order made at a meeting of forty nine subscribers of the Fairfax Independant Company, we take the Liberty to request, (if it does not interfere with the more important business you are engaged in) that you will please to make some enquiries with regard to the furnishing the company with a pair of Colours, two Drums, two Fifes, and two Halberts, if they are to be had in Philadelphia, which may be sent round by the first Vessel for Alexandria.

We leave it to you, Sir, to determine whether it may be proper or necessary to vary from the usual Colours that are carried by the Regulars or Militia.

We are Sir with the greastest respect yr. most Obedt. hble Servts. WM RAMSEY ROB H:
HARRISON JOHN FITZGERALD ²

¹ "Every County, besides, is now arming a Company of men, whom they call an Independent Company, for the avowed purpose of protecting their Committees, and to be employed against Government, if occasion require. The Committee of one County has proceeded so far as to swear the men of their Independent Company, to

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execute all orders which shall be given them from the Committee of their County.”—Lord Dunmore to the Earl of Dartmouth, December 24, 1774, American Archives.

2 Colonel John Fitzgerald, the father of Elizabeth and Jane Fitzgerald [first, and second wife of Francis Lightfoot Lee], was a native of Ireland, who had settled at Alexandria some time before the Revolution, and had become a prosperous merchant of that town. During the war he served for some time upon General Washington's staff, and the friendship begun at that time appears to have continued throughout their lives. Very frequent mention is made in Washington's diary of visits to Colonel Fitzgerald at Alexandria. He was at one time mayor of that town. — EDMUND JENNINGS LEE, in *Lee of Virginia*.